MUNICIPAL COMPLICATIONS.

Mayor Cooper's Forthcoming Message and Its Leading Points.

HIS TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS.

The Cases of Ex-Police Commissioners Nichols and Smith.

Mayor Cooper will send in his message to the new Board of Aldermen on the first Monday of January. It is understood that the document will be much than that transmitted to the present City Fathers. It will point out many of the difficulties with which the Mayor has had to contend during the first year of his term; the necessity for economy in the administration of public affairs, and what reforms may be necessary to bring about a harmonious and efficient city government. A special commenda-tion of the manner in which the Department of Public Works has been conducted under the administra-tion of Commissioner Allan Campbell will also be embodied in the message. The practice of giving way railroad and other valuable franchises by resolutions of the Common Council will be vigorously

The near approach of the assembling of the republican Legislature of 1880 gives the local political aind ample food for speculation as to what laws may be passed affecting the government of this city. When certain leading facts are taken into consideration relative to the cost, crudities and irresponsibilities of running the city government any hanges whatever in the present system would b deemed advisable, as the general opinion runs. The tax levy for last year was \$30,007,007 20. For next Estimate and Apportionment will next week determine upon the final estimates of moneys expended in carrying on the city government for 1880. It is true that special acts of the Legislature direct the ex t amount to be paid in salaries to a large number of the officials in this city. Attempts have been lieve the burdens of the people from excessive sal-aries paid out in this way. The adroit manipulaholders are generally held to be the main impediments toward bringing about reforms in this brection. Advocates of economy argue that the should necessity for such reforms may be inferred from the fact that over \$10,000,000 are annually taken out of the city treasury to keep alive our army of office-holders, the great majority of whom have lived all their lives as political traders and ad-

MAYOR COOPER'S POSTITION. Frequent efforts were made by a HEBALD reporter during the past week to induce Mayor Cooper to consent to an authoritative exposition of his views on the present condition of affairs in municipal politics and the prospects for the future. The gen_ deman could not be induced to talk so that his fleman could not be induced to talk so that his views might be given to the public at the present time. However, an official who has the entire confidence of His Honor and who may be looked upon as a truthful exponent of the Mayor's views was yesterday interviewed on these important topics.

"What do you consider the principal impediments in the way of a proper administration of affairs in the Mayor's office?" this gentleman was first saked.

"The Mayor's chief difficulties during the past year have arisen from questions as to the true meaning of the charter of 1873, and especially as to the true most of office and liability to removal of officers of the city government."

the city government."

"To what particular provisions in the charter do you allude?"

"The decision in the Wheeler case asserts the docine that an officer who is holding over under the sharter cannot be removed except through the confirmation of his successor. In the Nichols case the Court held that proceedings by the Mayor were strictly judicial in their character, subject for review by courts, and to all the technicalities and delays incidental to legal proceedings. If both of these decisions are correct the power of the Mayor is seriously impaired."

"Why so?"
"Hold-over officials can practically defy him, while
the necessarily dilatory nature of proceedings
against officers accused during the terms for which
they were appointed, and the probability of interterence by writs of prohibition and other legal exterence by writs of prohibition and other legal exference by writs of prohibition and other legal expedients, render prompt exercise of executive authority impracticable. Such legal conclusions would
have no power of suspension in the hands of the
Mayor. As matters stand to-day his power of removal, too, is practically destroyed. He cannot be
hald responsible for the continuance in office
of officials in whose ability or fidelity
he has no condence. Should the decision
to which I have referred be sustained in

to which I have referred be sustained in the courts of last resort the people will understand that the Mayor cannot be bigmed for failing to exercise powers not conferred upon him by law. On the other hand, should they be reversed, he or his successors will have the advantage of holding duly defined powers in some degree proportionate to the great amount of responsibility generally understood to be imposed upon the Mayor of New York."

"Then you consider that Mayor Cooper has done all in his power in the way of removing incompetent officials and appeinting in their places good men?"

"I certainly do. There was but one course for Mr. Gooper to pursue—to obey the orders of courts served upon him and to press the cases involving the tiefinition of his powers to a speedy conclusion. Ke then acted upon the latest authoritative exposition of the law, using his best efforts to secure a speedy and final settlement."

APOLOGIES FOR MUDDLES.

speedy and final settlement."

"You evidently trace much of the present muddle in local government to this state of affairs?"

"Undoubtedly. Had it not been for the legal difficulties of which I speak I believe that a much greater improvement in the city government could have been effected during the present year. At any rate it good results were not obtained the Mayor's responsibility for failure would have been far greater than it is now. You must recollect that the effect of the legal controversies to which I have alluded reaches far beyond the officials immediately concerned."

"In what manner?"

"Well, you see public officers are naturally less disposed to exert themselves when they know that the nominal head of the city government is without suthority to correct delinquencies. It is due, however, to the commissioners and heads of departments now in office to say that many of them do not need the apprehension of removal to compel realousness and efficiency in the discharge of duty. There are some exceptions. It must be remembered, too, that obstacles to the exercise of the Mayor's porrective suthority apply to the case of many minor officials, as, for instance, city marshals, as well as to those of beads of departments."

"Do the Mayor and his immediate circle advocate amendments to the present charter?"

"That, I believe, depends upon the result of pending litigation. Should the courts finally decide in favor of the theory of adequate power to a responsible executive, I see no reason why the affairs of the city should not be well administered under the laws as they now stand. When a determination is so near at hand of what the law regulating the executive power really means, it is idle to appeculate upon the mecessity of attering the statutes in this respect."

"Would it not be well to create one-headed instead

apoculate upon the in this respect."
"Would it not be well to create one-headed instead of triple-headed commissions in the city govern-

of triple-headed commissions in the city government?"

"These are subordinate issues just now. Whether setten of a department should be determined by the vote of one or several departmental officers is of much less consequence than the question whether the chief executive should have real power or the semblance of authority. Neither single-headed departments nor departmental boards can co-operate efficiently in the administration of municipal sfairs when the central executive authority, to which all are nominally responsible and who is primarily accountable for the execution of all laws and ordinances, is without power to enforce them through the channels of the various departmenta and branches of the municipal body. I believe that public sentiment is in tavor of resting absolute authority in the Mayor and holding him responsible for it."

"Please explain."

"Please explain."

Polifical PERPLEXITIES.

"During this year political complications have added to the difficulties of the situation. Mayor Cooper has endeavored to secure competent successors to officers whose terms have expired by nominating proper persons to the Board of Aldermen. The latiture of the Board to confirm them has defeated the only method of removal of hold-over officials left open under decision of the courts. Whatever reforms and economies have been effected this year have been brought about by the cheerful co-operation of subordinates, without the exercise of that positive corrective authority with which the Mayor has heretofore been supposed to be vested."

"The Mayor of New York may, then, be considered as aimost a mere momentity as far as official power is concerned?"

"That is about it. As matters now stand the Mayor's chief power lies in the power to vete. In other words, his chief authority is negative. He has been able, through the exercise of this power, to defeat a number of injudicious and extravagant schemes. I think he could have accomplished a greater good if, in addition to this obstructive power, his authority to exercise positive control over departments and officials had not been so seriously impeded. Take, for example, the case of Dud-

ley, Superintendent of Buildings. It is generally admitted that his administration of the Building Department has been erradic and peculiar. Ho has changed several times during the year a large proportion of his force without the assignment of any reason; has been publicly charged, under oath, with accepting bribes. Accidents like that which recently occurred in Third avenue seemed to show that he has failed to use his authority to protect life and property, as required by law. Yet the Mayor, so long as the Wheeler decision holds, cannot remove him. Dudley's term has expired, and he can do as he pleases as long as political deals or abuse of patronage can provent the confirmation of his successor. Under a similar deadlock the places of Dock Commissioner Westervelt and others remain unfilled, excellent nominations for those bositions being sent in to the Board of Aldermen by the Mayor and rejected or laid on the table."

The above interview will give some idea of the peculiarities of our strangely mixed up city government. The HERALD reporter was yesterday afternoon told in confidence by a mgh official that the General Term decision in the Nichols case would be recorded in a few days; that the decision would operate in favor of the contestant; that the case would then go before the Court of Appeals, where it would be argued next month, and that the decision of the highest tribunal in the State would undoubtedly result in the reinstatement of Nichols as Police Commissioner. This would have the effect of putting back General Smith, who was also removed by Mayor Cooper and Governor Robinson.

RECORDER HACKETT'S SUCCESSOR.

WHOM WILL THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS NAME?-EX-CITY JUDGE BEDFORD SUG-

It is pretty well settled that at the meeting of the Board of Aldermen, on Tuesday next, as a Board of as the successor of Recorder Hackett will come up for discussion. The present Board stands politically nine Tammany democrats to seven republicans and six anti-Tammany democrats. If they should ar that Assistant District Attorney Rollins or some other equally pronounced republican could be appointed Recorder, then the Legis-lature could pass a bill lodging immense powers of appointment in the hands of this ial. A few words by way of amendment to the present charter might do the work. Such a law It was yesterday rumored that the republicans, failing to operate successfully through the Board of Aldermon, would await the assembling of the Legislature, when they would give the power of filing Recorder Hackett's vacancy to the Governor. Later on it was found that the judiciary article of the constitution adopted in 1876 forbade such course in the following words:—

Other judicial officers than justices of the peace in cities where election or appointment is not otherwise provided for in this article shall be chosen by the electors of cities or appointed by some local authorities thereof. cities where election or appointment is not otherwise provided for in this article shall be chosen by the electors of cities for appointed by some local authorities thereof.

Alderman Morris in an interview with a reporter of the Hriald pesterday, said the preliminary matter to be settled would really be as to which party had the claim to the office. He, as a republican, claimed that, as Recorder Hackett was elected on the republican ticket, the republicans had the right of nomination. When reminded that the Recorder received also the indorsement of Irving Hall he said that that made no difference; his beinef was that the republicans would control the nomination. If that was the case, and the present Beard nominated a successor to the Recorder, it would, probably, be in consequence of an agreement with the Tammany members of the Board. There was nothing to gain by delay, because the incoming Board was constituted, politically, in the same way as the retiring Board. Among the republicans talked of were Mr. Ellihu Root and Assistant District Attornoy Rollins, but notither name had been mentioned in any authorized way, inasmuch as there had not been time to call a caucus of the Aldermen since the death of the Recorder. If the republicans did unite with Tammany in the nomination then excity Judge Bedford stood a very good chance in consequence of the very excellent record he made before the people at the last election, running far ahead of his ticket. That was a circumstance of such great significance that his party could not afford to ignore it.

The next Tammany candidate mentioned yesterday and supposed to be strongly supported by the Comptroller, was Mr. Frederick Smyth. With many of the Aldermen his name will have great weight. He has been before the people recently on three ocasions as a candidate for three different offices, and, though on each occasion defeated, he polled a very large vote. The anti-Tammany democrat spoken of is Mr. Truax, but his name receives very little attortion, inasmuch as it is conce

the Thiamany democrats.

"POPULAR WITH INVINO HALL AND TANMANY."
Among those not intimately connected with the inside workings of politicians the name of ex-City Judge Bedford is received with favor, as the following letter will show:—

Judge Bedford is received with favor, as the following letter will show:

New Your, Dec. 27, 1879.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HEBALD:

As your paper has time shd again advised the uniting of the democracy of this city in one general committee, and as a democrat is to succeed to the place left vacant by the death of the worthy John K. Hackett, late Recorder, and as Mr. Gunung S. Bedford is popular with both Irving and Tammany hails by the large number of votes he received whenever he has been brought before the people of this city for judicial honors, I hope the leaders of Irving Hall will use their influence in bringing his name before the Board of Supervisors for confirmation, and thereby test the advocates of Tammany for union, as his nomination and confirmation for the high office of Recorder may be the means of uniting the democracy of this city and State and of preparing it for the great battle to be fought for the success of the democracy of the Union.

GEORGE W. PURDY,

No. 403 West Twenty-third street.
IN MEMORY OF THE DEAD.

A meeting of the Sinking Fund Commissioners was held yesterday in the Comptroller's office. The Comptroller announced the fact of the death of Recorder Hackett and moved that a committee consisting of Mayor Cooper and Chamborlain Tappan be appointed to draft suitable resolutions be presented at the next meeting of the Commissioners.

The flags at the City Hall and Court House were at half-mast yesterday and will continue so until after the funeral.

"UNBROTHERLY CONDUCT."

Justice Johnson, of Port Richmond, S. I., was unable yesterday morning to continue the examination Sailor's Snug Harbor, who is charged by ex-Judge Corbitt with perjury in having sworn before Justic Kassner, at Stapleton, that he received money from Corbitt for his vote at the late election, owing to his having been summoned to appear before Justice having been summoned to appear before Justice Kassner. An officer served the subpens on Justice Johnson on Friday night while he was attending a birthday party at New Brighton. When Justice Johnson, in compliance with the summons, arrived at his brother justice's court in Stapleton at eight o'clock yesterday morning he found Justices Garrett and Kassner on the bench. The Court sharply rebuked Justice Johnson for his unbrotherly action toward Justice Johnson to his unbrotherly action toward Justice Kassner, when Justice Johnson said:—"In that matter I acted the same as I would have done had it been my own brother." Not being wanted in court for any particular purpose Justice Johnson was then allowed to return to Port Richmond.

Johnson was then sllowed to return to rote intermond.

The Court then proceeded with the preliminary
examination of witnesses in the alleged election
bribery cases. James Kent, James W. Smith and
David Sherry—the two first named having acted as
inspectors and the latter as poll clerk in the Snig
Harbor district on last election day—were examined.
They denied seeing any money used to buy votes.
Prissley Wilson (colored), an old inmate of the
Harbor, recently testified that before he voted he
was handed an envelope; that when he opened the
latter he found a piece of blank paper.

A JEALOUS WIFE'S BAD AIM.

Emma Dora W. Brown, a mulatto, stood at the bar of Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday afternoon charged with having shot one William Phillips in the thigh in an attempt to murder her husband, William Brown, on Christmas night, at a house of ill repute in West Twenty-sixth street. William Brown was coachman and his wife was chambermaid for a wealthy family near Englewood, N. J. The former was discharged about the middle of December for his irregular habits and came to of December for his irregular habits and came to New York to seek employment. His wife was informed that instead of looking for work he was enjoying himself in the company of a dusky Delijah who resided in West Twenty-sixth street. On Christmas night her residence was thronged, but the scene of revelry was suddenly put an end to by the entrance of Emma. At a glance she took in all the points of the situation, and drawing a single barrelled pistol, at which the crowd scattered right and left, she said to her husband, "If you won't live with me, you won't live at all," and immediately fired. Her aim was so bad, however, that she struck instead of Brown a colored bootblack named William Phillips. Brown stopped forward and took the weapon away from her and she then fied unmolested. Yesterday Detective Schmittberger arrested her at Englewood and Justice Flanmer held her in \$2,000 to answer. Phillips, whose wound is more painful than dangerous, was committed the House of Detention.

LITTLE BLANCHE CHEAT.

The case of the child Blanche Cheat, alleged by he father to have been stolen by her mother, Annie Brady Childs, and sold to Mr. Thomas W. Canton, came up for hearing yesterday before Judge Van Verst, in Supreme Court, Chambers, on a writ of habeas corpus. The mother of the child, Mr. Cauton and his wire were present, but Cheat failed to ap-pear, and his counsel not being able to give any ac-count of his whereabouts the case was dismissed.

TAMMANY'S TYRANNY.

District Leaders in Open Revolt Against Their General.

"A VERY ARBITRARY MEASURE."

Coroner Flanagan and Michael Sigerson Sound a Defiant Trump.

The disaffection of the Tammany organization in many Assembly districts of this city, as made manifest at the meeting of the General Committee on Fri-day last, was the prevailing topic of discussion in sides that the leader had shown his weakness in the strongest possible light by refusing to allow prima ries to be held in all the districts at the same time. Why should an exception be made in the cases of the Sixth, Twolfth, Thirteenth and Nine teenth districts, except from a fear on the carry them in his "pocket" as heretofore? The fact was admitted that the opposition to "one man power" had assumed most formidable proportions in these and other districts, and consequently it was teared that the "machine" would have no show of electing their delegates to the next General Committer. But it may be stated that the trouble that now seems gradually to be undermining the entire back to before the last election. Not only in the four districts named above is there serious disaffection, but a similar state of affairs exists in almost every district in the city. The apparent smoothing over of the trouble in one district has invariably been succeeded by more serious disputes between ambitious leaders in other districts. As evidence of this fact may be cited the cases in the Twelfth and Nineteenth Assembly districts. In both charges of having sold out the regular candidates were made, and no sooner was the Twelfth district overhauled than an investigation district was inaugurated. With a certain degree of harmony restored in this district came fresh charges in reference to the party management in the Sixth and Thirteenth districts. But the trouble does not appear to end here, for if rumors regarding revolt from party leadership in other districts are correct there will be a very lively time in Tammany Hall next year. It has generally been the policy of the organization to settle its inter-nal squabbles in private whenever possible but this custom has for once been abandon it not been for the open mutiny in the General Committee which took place on Friday night last it is doubtful if more than a hint of the present chaotic condition of the organization in some districts By the action of some of the more independent gentlemen of the committee, however, the facts were all THE TROUBLE IN THE THIRTEENTH.

First in order comes the trouble in the Thirteenth district. Here Coroner Richard Flanagan has for some years past had charge of the organization. Mr. most popular politicians in the city, and has held elective offices at different times, on each occasion running very far shead of his ticket. He has been a close personal friend of the present Tammany measure "his own boss." In the Thirteenth district Mr. Flanagan has for some time past been opby ex-Alderman James Barker, who on several occasions sought to wrest the district management from his hands. He has thus far never gen successful, however. Before the last election Coroner Flanagan was a candidate for the Tamman nomination for Sheriff. He might have been the anti-Tammany nominee, it is said, had he choses but for some reason or other he refused a propo but for some reason or other he refused a proposition of this nature. The present leader of Tammany, however, had promised the office to Alderman William R. Roberts, and after the latter gentleman had been nominated Mr. Flanagan was requested to be content with a renomination for Coroner. It is now charged against Mr. Flanagan that, disappointed at not receiving the Tammany shrievalty nomination, he worked, and influenced his friends to work, against the election of Mr. Roberts, the regular nominee of the organization. The Coroner, also, it is claimed by those opposed to him, did not pay his political assessment, and thus further jeopardized the interests of the entire Tammany ticket. These allegations have aroused the indignation of the man who acts as spokesman for the rest of the Tammany organization, and at the last session of the General Committee Mr. Flanagan was warned by him that if he didn't get out of the last session of the General Committee Mr. Flangan was warned by him that if he didn't get out of the party he would be put out. This threat of one man, speaking as it were for the 1.200 resembers of the committee, is regarded with some degree of wonder by politicians. In order to ascertain what Mr. Flan-agan thought of the matter a Henallo reporter talked with him last night. After a long search through the political haunts of the city the Coroner was found smiling and chatting in the midst of a group of friends.

found smiling and chatting in the midst of a group of friends.

"You don't appear to be very much troubled over the thought of being summarily ejected from Tammany Hall," said the reporter, and the Coroner laughed as he replied:—

"Not at all. I don't see anything to worry shout." "But you may be put out of the organization?" "But you may be put out of the organization?" "Well, of course, that is possible, but even that calamity does not make me quake with fear." "How did the present unpleasantness originate?" "I suppose it had its origin in my refusing to pay my political assessment, amounting to over thirty-five hundred dollars."

"Why did you refuse to pay that amount?"
"Because, my dear sir, I considered it too high. The office of Coroner is worth just \$5,000 a year, and, in my humble opinion, \$3,500 for a \$5,000 office is rather too much. I received a notice from the Treasurer of Tammany Hall, directly after I was renominated for the Coronership, stating that I was renominated for the Coronership, stating that I was required to subscribe that amount of money, and after fully considering the matter I concluded not to heed the request."

"Did you have any other reason for not paying the sum domanded?"

"Yes; I was not a candidate before the nominating

to heed the request."

"Did you have any other reason for not paying the sum demanded?"

"Yes; I was not a candidate before the nominating convention for the office of Coroner. I told my friends long before the nominations were made that I was desirous of running on the county ticket for the office of Sheriff. I could, if I had so desired, have obtained the anti-Tammany nountnation for the position, but I preferred to stay with my own friends in Tammany. I did not want the position of Coroner, and I said so to all my friends. They will bear me out in that."

"If has been said that you worked against certain nominees on the Tammany ticket. Is the charge true?"

"It is not; I worked for the success of my friends. If the county ticket was beaten it assuredly is not my fault. I am only in one district out of the twenty-four in the city. But that is not the reason why the Tammany leader is mad. Oh, no! He is disappointed because he received such a small vote for Governor in the Thirteenth district. That's what's the matter with him. Now, I will say that I could not help this. The people would'nt follow him. They wouldn't be ruled by one man, and if they emphasized their decision through the ballot why I cannot help it. But that is just what they are doing. The leaders won't have it all their own way, though."

"Mast do you intend to do?"

"I am some simply to defend myself: nothing

though."

"What do you intend to do?"

"I am going simply to defend myself; nothing more. I shall exert my power in the district, and I think I can carry it if I try. As it is now I have some twenty-four delegates on the General Committee, while the other side has less than eighteen. This is not the first time I have been at issue with the Tammany leader, and in the other struggles I was not killed politically by any means, as you can see."

was not killed politically by any means, as you can see."

"But you may be beaten this time?"

"Oh, I don't know about that. Although the other conflicts I have had with the Tammany leader did not amount to so serious a disagreement as the present one, yet I confess I am not afraid of meeting the issue. It will be time enough for them to crow after they have won the battle. The Tammany chieftain is a very overbearing man and will not listen to any opinion that is contrary to his own. At least I have round him so, If he had not exerted his power last night he would never have been able to carry his point, which was to prevent a primary being held in my district. He had to come to the front himself and support the measure, and as it was he was barely successful for the time being."

had to come to the front himself and support the measure, and as it was he was barely successful for the time being."

"What do you suppose will be the next step taken in this matter?"

"They may try to expel me from the organization, but before they do I think I can satisfy them that I have some power in my district. In the meantime, however, there is nothing but to wait and see what turns up."

"How do you regard the action of the Tammany leader in not allowing certain districts to hold primaries?"

"That is a very arbitrary measure. I can see its purport very clearly. The Tammany leader saw that unless he adopted some such high-handed measures he would lose his hold on the party organization. It is in order to make an effort to retain his control that he has acted as he has."

A talk with a number of prominent gentlemen in

the Thirteenth district developed the fact that what Coroner Flanagan said about the Tammany leader being in a minority there was strictly true. A large proportion of those persons who have any influence in the district have announced themselves as being warm opponents of the present chief. They are all determined to share the same fate as Coroner Figu-agan.

warm opponents of the present ciner. They are all again.

A VEROROUS ONSLAUGHT.

The revolt from the leadership of the Tammany managers in the Sixth Assembly district appears to be of a more formidable character than was at first supposed. Judge "Tim" Campbell and Schator "Jahe" Seobacher at present control the "machine" in that district, and Mr. Michael H. Sigarson is making a vigorous onslaught on behalf of a large number of residents. Just previous to the last election the Tammany leader was made to feel the power of Mr. Seobacher and his collective in a very curious manner. Assemblyman Thomas F. Grady was desirous of securing the Senatorial nomination in Seobacher's district. He went to the leader of Tammany, and, according to all accounts, it was arranged that he should have the nomination. But "Jake" wanted to go to the Senate aiso; and when he heard that Grady had obtained the consent of the "boss" to secure him the prize he became furious. Mr. Seobacher had, however, the entire district at his back, and when the Senatorial Convention was held he was nominated at once. The Tammany leader was not able to carry out his promise to Grady, because the district managers insisted upon Seobacher's nomination. Meeting a friend in the street one day, just before the Convention was held, the Senator was asked how his prospects looked. After thinking a moment he put his finger to the side of his nose and said, confidentially:—

"De iron hand wants Grady; de peeples wants me."

The fact that he was beaten in the Sixth district by his own managers has made the present leader extremely anxious to change the personnel of the General Committee in that part of the city. His desire in this respect has given rize to the present controvers, but there does not at present seem to be much danger that either Campbell or Seobacher's head to have been to be much danger that either Campbell or Seobacher.

by his own managers has made the present leader extramely anxious to change the personnel of the General Committee in that part of the city. His desire in this respect has given rise to the present seem to be much danger that either Campbell or Seebacher will be overthrown. But the trouble in this district does not by any means end here. There is another knot that will have to be untied before a smooth political surface is manutactured in the district. Judge Campbell recently reappointed Mr. W. W. Cook as clerk of his court for a term of six years. Mr. Cook, who halfs from the Twelfth district, has heretofore acted as Judge Campbell's clerk, and his reappointment is partially due to the fact that the Twelfth district leaders demanded it. Mr. Cook is charged with having worked against several Tammany candidates on election day, notably Alderman Roberts, and it is aleged that Coroner Woltman and other Twelfth district managers who were benefited by Mr. Cook's alleged course, requested Mr. Campbell to retain him in his present position. All these facts were conveyed to the present Tammany leader and he waxed wroth, because he intended to have those persons charged with having sold out Roberts and other candidates "put out of the organization." No amount of persuasion, however, could induce Judge Campbell to revoke his action, and the matter has intensified the bitter feeling between the district leaders and the great chief of the party.

The opposition to Judge Campbell is led by Mr. M. H. Sigerson, a lawyer, who has been in the district for many years. A HERALD reporter found Mr. Sigerson in his office on Broadway. The gentleman claims that Mr. Campbell has endeavored to run the Sixth district as a personal machine without any regard whatever to the party or its candidates. "The fact is." continued Mr. Sigerson, "that the people of the Sixth district have become finally alive to the necessity of some speedy action to take the district out of the hands of those now in control. Why, at the last election our candida

has no doubt it will remain so under the present leaders.

CORONER WOLTMAN'S "TREACHERY."

In the Twelfth district Coroner Woltman and other leaders are charged generally with having been unfaithful to the great chief and his candidates on election day. Alderman Roberts had Mr. Woltman up before a committe of investigation, and the facts then brought out showed, it is alleged, that a reorganization of the district management would be most desirable for the "powers that be." Coroner Woltman, who was a candidate for re-election, is charged with having "soldout" Mr. Roberts, the candidate for Sheriff, and it is rumored that for this "act of treachery" his political wings are to be clipped, or, in other words, his sway in the Twelfth district is to be discontinued after the lat of January. But the section of the city in which the Coroner resides is pre-eminently a German one. It may be, therefore, that Mr. Woltman will show such a determined front to the Tammany leader that the latter will have to back down or else run the risk of having the district taken from him and converted into an anti-Tammany one. It is said that there are enough determined men in the district organization to join in such a movement, and that when it is once imaugurated its strength will astonish the Tammany Mogul.

The Nineteenth district row was all raised because

nean candidate, but happiny their chorts were not successful. We propose to make the fight a vigorous one, and I have no doubt we will succeed."

Judge Campbell denies all the statements in reference to his district management. He says that the district is in a very good condition, and that he has no doubt it will remain so under the present

Inaugurated its strength will astonish the Tammany Mogul.

The Nineteenth district row was all raised because Mr. John B. Haskin was not chosen as Senator. Mr. Haskin was the regular Tammany candidate at the last election, although the year before he had been high in the coursels of anti-Tammany. Mr. T. C. E. Ecclesine, on the contrary, was Tammany last year, but this year ran as the anti-Tammany candidate. It is charged against Mr. Thomas O'Caliaghan and other wigwam leaders in this district that they supported Ecclesine on the quiet," and thus defeated the Senatorial aspirations of Mr. Haskin. The quarrel between Haskin and O'Caliaghan has been a bitter one, and, it is said, the two men really came to blows at a meeting of the Tammany Committee on Organization. The result of the light was came to blows at a metric of the fight was mittee on Organization. The result of the fight was an investigation by a committee, of which Colonel Gilon was chairman. It was shown that some of the district workers had endeavored to secure Mr. Ecclesine's election by selling out Mr. Haskin, and a reserve the mort embracing the facts in the matter, has just

sine's election by selling out Mr. Haskin, and a report, embracing the facts in the matter, has just been made. It is on what is contained in this report that the district is not to be allowed to hold primaries until after the new General Committee is chosen.

It is an incontrovertible fact that in nearly every district in the city there will be opposition to the Tammany leader at the coming primaries. Indeed it is said that a movement will soon be set on foot with the object of having all the districts act in concert in the matter, and with their combined strength shake off the shackles that now bind them to the Tammany leader. A very shrewd politician told a Hikkallo reporter last night that all that was wanted was a good leader—one who had courage and did not "have an axe to grind." Whether such a man will be found remains to be seen. At present there is an air of uncertainty about Tammany politics, and no-body scems to be able to tell what will be the effect of the disciplinary measures that have been set on foot by the chief of the organization.

AN OVERHEATED STOVE

PARTIAL DESTRUCTION BY PIRE OF A LARGE BUILDING ON THE BOWERY-ESTIMATED LOSS

The four story brick building on the northwest corner of Bowery and Hester street, owned by John Jacob Astor, was partly destroyed by fire last night. The occupants estimate the loss at \$50,000, but the police say that it will not exceed \$10,000. The loss is fully covered by insurance. Shortly after seven o'clock last evening a man rushed into the clothing store of Dutton & Rhodes, on the first floor, and reported that the building was on fre. The salesmen and customers in an instant be came excited and rushed into the street. Smoke was then issuing from the windows on the third floor. The slarm was sounded and in a few minutes the firethen issuing from the windows on the third floor. The slarm was sounded and in a few minutes the firemen arrived. The district engineer saw at a glance that the fire had gained considerable headway, and, fearing that it would spread, sent out a second and afterward a third alarm. These signals brought to his assistance a large force of firemen, and fully a dozen engines and men and machines were soon got to work. Dense clouds of smoke enveloped the upper part of the building, and for a time the downtown trains on the elevated railread were forced to pass through them, much to the alarm of the passengers. Upon breaking open the doors and windows upon the floor where the fire originated the firemen found the interior one mass of flames. The heat was intense, and the smoke being suffocating they were for a time driven back, but after working tor fully haif an hour the firemen succeeded in checking the spread of the conflagration. In less than an hour after the discovery of the fire it was extinguished. The building has a frontage of fifty teef on the Bowerty and seventy-five feet on Hester street. It was strongly built and has a stout centre wall, and although the third and loff-th floors were gutted it still remains intact. E. Deutsch & Sons employ about firty boys and girls in the manufacture of eigars. They say that their workshops were closed an hour before the outbreak of the fire. It is supposed to have been caused by an overheated stove. Dutton & Rhodes estimate their loss by water at \$35,000. The second floor, which was rented by the Feter Cooper Glue Company, with its contents was injured to the amount of \$2,000. The third floor, occupied by E. Deutsch & Sons, tobacco and eigar dealers, was danaged to the extent of \$1,000. The building was injured to the extent of \$1,000. The building was injured to the extent of \$1,000.

A CLUBBER ON THE RAMPAGE. Information reached Police Headquarters last

evening that a gentleman had been beaten by an officer in Madison Square Garden. Sergeant Keating, of the Twenty-ninth precinct, said the report was true, but that he could not give the officer's name and was unable to say what precinct he was attached to. Later on another report was circulated at the Central Office to the effect that the same poinceman had beaten one of the scorers on the track in front of the reporters' stand at a quarter to eight P. M. This statement was also found to be

EDISON'S LIGHT.

Menlo Park Illuminated Last Night with Forty Electric Lamps.

A. BRILLIANT SUCCESS.

The Puzzling Mystery of the Carbon Horseshoe.

The laboratory of Mr. Edison at Menlo Park was brilliantly illuminated last night with the new electric light, the occasion being a visit of a number of the inventor's personal triends. Forty lamps in all were burning from six o'clock until after ten. The various parts of the system were explained by the method of subdividing the electric current he had two copper wires of about an eighth of an inch in thickness leading to the generating machines placed side by side on cleats along tables nearly the entire length of the laboratory. To these he con nected lamp after lamp by merely fastening little wires to each of the parallel supply wires and then attaching them to the lamps. The illumination or extinguishment made not the slightest perceptible difference in the strength of the current.

Twenty electric lamps burned with exactly the same brilliancy as did one when the other nineteen were disconnected. The light given was of the brill iancy of the best gas jet, perhaps a trifle more brilliant. The effect of the light on the eyes was much superior to g s in softness and excited the admira tion of all who saw it.

A new feature, shown by the inventor for the first time, was the method of regulating the strengt of the current to be used at the central stations. By moving a little wheel the assistant in charge of this branch of the system was enabled to readily vary the strength of the electric lights from the merest glimmer to a dazzling incandescence. When the latter point was reached the little horshoe paper presented the appearance of a beautiful globe of fire The method of obtaining the vacuum in the little

sented the appearance of a beautiful globe of fire. The method of obtaining the vacuum in the little glass bulbs of the lamps was also explained and proved highly interesting.

Some of the questions put to the inventor furnish a sample of the character of those constantly being showered on him by persons whose scientific knowledge is considerably below par. Said one spectator as he curiously examined the little bulb in process of being exhausted, "But, Mr. Edison, how do you extract the vacuum?"

The general laugh that followed put a quietus on further interregatories from the inquisitive sight-seer. Another spectator solemnly observed that the pores of the glass, and he seemed at sea when it was explained to him that glass was homogeneous. All sorts of suggestions, and of the most ridictious character, from would-be scientists are among the inflictions which the completion of the electric light has brought upon Mr. Edison. Letters are pouring in upon him from all over the country suggesting every modification for the horseshoe filsment, from a knitting needle to a small crowbar. Asbestos paper is, however, the tavorite. About sixty persons have already urged its substitution for the carbon, forgetting that asbestos is a nonconductor of electricity. The little motor for running sowing machines and doing other light work was also shown, and created much interest. The electricity consumed for the operation of a sewing machine is equal to that required to give out an illumination of the brilliancy of an ordinary gas jet.

The effect of the exhibition was to convince those present who before were sceptical that Mr. Edison had in reality produced the electric light for household illumination.

No day is yet set for the general public exhibition, but it is nuite probable that in saids of

hold illumination.

No day is yet set for the general public exhibition, but it is quite probable that inside of a week everything will be in readiness to be seen by all who desire to visit Menlo Park.

AN ESTIMATE OF EDISON BY ONE WHO WORKED SIDE BY SIDE WITH HIM.

While some scientific men affect to sneer at the inventions of Edison, and perhaps from a spirit of icalousy deride the genius of the inventor, there are others by a large majority who candidly admit his chievements in the domain of electrical science to be among the foremost acquisitions of the age. cian, who has had many opportunities to know and appreciate Edison's peculiar and marvellous abiliies. A HERALD reporter had yesterday the sub joined conversation with Dr. Beard on Edison and

"What do you think of the practicability of the

electric light? know beforehand whether it is possible or not to so aubdivide and arrange the electric light as to make electric light for families is like a voyage of discovery across Central Africa. Obstructions are to be overcome at every step. It is a matter of infinite detail. To assert, as some have, that it is impos sible to make use of the electric light for houses is

unscientific, because we do not know it."
"Can the light be made uniform in dwellings?" That also was purely a question of experiment. This, like many of the problems connected with the electric light, cannot be solved by theoretical reason-

"Would you regard a successful exhibition, say at Menlo Park, as a proof that this problem was absolutely solved?"

"I should not. The question of time comes

We must not only have a good electrical light, but one that will last for months and years, or at least for months, before the problem is solved. This can not be solved by theoretical reasoning, as it is purely

not be solved by theoretical reasoning, as it is purely experimental. A light might be perfect for a time and yet not stand the test of years of wear and use."

"In view of all the difficulties in the matter on which side do you think the probabilities rest, for or against the solution of this problem?"

"The probabilities seem to me in rayor of the ultimate solution of this question. It may be this year or it may be later. It may be along the line on which they are now working or it may be through inventions not now dreamed of."

"From what you know of Edison do you consider him the man most likely to solve this problem?"

"If any man in this generation is able to solve it certainly he should be. Even if he should fail in the special experiments he is now making I should still have a great degree of faith that he might perhaps succeed in some other way. He has a mind of extraordinary resources in the presence of failure. I have worked with him side by side, night after night, experimenting in some difficult problems of

have a great degree of faith that he might perhaps succeed in some other way. He has a mind of extraordinary resources in the presence of faiter. In the source of the source of the presence of faiter, and the source of the source of the presence of faiter. In the psychological analysis of Edison's mind than in the electrical problems. Sometimes when we were utterly foliad in all our attempts possible solutions would instantaneously present intenselves to his mind, and when these all proved trittle he was ready with others. Even if he should fail entirely and absolutely in making the electricity light practicable for ramities it is none the less treat to gain this end, and his provious mention of the proposed association. According to the form of remarkable inventors of any age.

"He is more than an inventor."

"How do you regard the strictures that have been lately passed upon ins character as an inventor?"

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"How do you regard the strictures that have been lately passed upon the strictures that have been an one of the most contained the strictures that have been a conclusive that have been a conclusive that have been a conclusive

months.' That seemed to me a very wild prediction, but it has been more than fulfilled."

MR. EDISON'S OPINION OF A SUPERSERVICEABLE PROFESSOR,

(From the New York Sup. Dec. 27.1

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SANIVARY ENGINEER: -Having a sincere respect for Mr. Edison as an enthusiastic and ingenious investigator I am sorry to see his name used by writers who evidently are quite ignorant of the subjects about which they treat in a way that will inseparably connect it with discreditable (because false) claims, evidently much in the interest of financial speculators.

No one can more thoroughly appreciate then I do the originality of conception, the indefatigable patience and immense labor which have been involved in the series of experiments of which a stotch has been given in the New Your litract of which a stotch has been given in the New Your litract of which a stotch has been given in the New Your litract of Sunday, the Ist; but when I see the conclusion of these, which every one acquainted with the subject will recognize as a conspicuous failure, trumpeted as a wonderful success, I have only left before me the two alternative conclusions that the writer of such matter must either be very ignorant and the victim of deceit, or a conscious accomplice in what is nothing less than a fraud upon the public.

Such writing as this, in fact, has the melancholy result of placing Mr. Edison and his electric light in the same category with Mr. Keely and his "water motor," Mr. Payne and his "electric engine," Mr. Garcy and his "magnetic motor," and others of the same class.

Against this I protest in behalf of true science and for the sake of Mr. Edison himself, who has done and is doing too much really good work to have his record detaced and his name discredited in the interests of any stock company or individual financiers.

Stevens institute of Technology, Dec. 22, 1870.

Mr. Thomes A. Edison read the above communithe originality of conception, the indefatigable pa-

Mr. Thomas A. Edison read the above communisation in his laboratory in Menlo Park last evening His electric lamps were glowing above his head that was printed in the article in the HERALD is literally true, although it was printed without my knowledge. Professor Morton does not read be-tween the lines. He should investigate first and animadvert afterward. I now authorize you to extend an invitation to him or any other electrician to visit my laboratory and see the light in practical operation. No impediments will be thrown in their way. Everything shall be open and aboveboard. If men, however, are wilfully blind I cannot undertake to restore their sight."

P. J. SMYTH'S REASONS.

A couple of weeks ago the HERALD published a despatch cabled to Dublin by representative men among the Irish nationalists in this country invit-States at the same time as Mr. Parnell, with a view to having "the whole case" of Ireland presented to the American people. A few days subsequently the cable announced that Mr. Smyth had written to the cable announced that Mr. Smyth had written to the nationalists thanking them for the honor done him, but declining the invitation. The following is a copy of Mr. Smyth's letter, which was yesterday re-

copy of Mr. Smyth's letter, which was yesterday re-ceived in this city:—

No. 15 Reterray Square, Dublin, De. 12, 1879.

Gentraken:—I tound it impossible to express within the compass of a cable telegram my deep appreciation of the honor done me by an invitation to visit America mader the anapices of some of the foremost living representatives of Irish patriotism, and to explain at the same time the rea-sons which compel me to decline an invitation so flat toring.

Irish patriotism, and to explain at the same time the ros some which compol me to decline an invitation so flat too some which compol me to decline an invitation so flat many and the same time the same time to the same time to some the same time to some time to the same time to the papers; but I should be sorry to take any step that might possibly lend to a disturbance of those arrangements or an alteration of such plans as he may have formed.

You would like me to present to the American people the whole case of Ireland. I venture to believe that I might succood in doing that in such a way as to win for it the sympathy and support of the whos and good among mankind. But if asked, as intallibly I would be, "Is this cause to-day" is it upon this and this alone that she takes her stand and claims the sympathy of free born men?" I should be compelled to say, "No; this is Iroland's cause in the abstract, but in the concrete it severy different. This is her cause as I and men like you would have it, but I hope the haps, or autumn—I may be able to remow any summer there with the land of Washington. I should greatly enjoy such a visit, for some of the happiest days of the light of the circumstances of our position as Irishmen at home and abroad, I should proter to go as quietly and modestly as possible.

I thank you sincerely, gentlemen, for your great kind-

s possible.

I thank you sincerely, gentlemen, for your great kind-

P. J. SMYTH. As the gentlemen who sent the invitation to Mr. Smyth are all actively engaged in preparing a welcome to Mr. Parnell they emphatically deny that they had any intention to create any rivalry between them. They claim they knew all the circumstances and only acted after long and carnest consultation with those entitled to speak for the nationalists throughout the United States.

IMMIGRATION FOR THE IRISH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:-After a prolonged absence abroad I am again on my way to the great Northwest, which I have not visited since 1865. Christmas greetings were never warmer nor more welcome. Never were the prosertain of realization than they are now. The perusal of your article of the 23d inst, on Mr. Parnell's visit, and of Mr. Vesey Storey's well timed and sensible letter on Irish immigration have given me the kin, and a rekin, and a reand oil. The question is one that can be only angreatest pleasure. The best practical relief for the greatest pleasure. The best practical relief for the overpopulated acres of Great Britain and of Northern Europe is to be found in emigration, and in emigration alone. Hook with confidence to a considerable increase in the emigration returns for the year ISSO. It rests mainly with the United States and Dominion governments whether the migration across the Atlantic shall be as large during the coming season as in the best years since the war. Family interference in the proper official quarters will inquickly rectify the mischief caused by irresponsible agents and brokers on the other side. Fitness, not numbers, should be the standard of successful immigration. Overpromotion without regard to qualification has always been, and, if persisted in, will continue to be the chief bar to remunerative labor and permanent settlement on this continue. Should opportunity layor I hope to make this fact more clear at an early day, and remain, dear sir, faithfully yours.

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LIBBY AND ANDERSONVILLE.

In pursuance of a resolution passed at a meeting of the survivors of Andersonville and other Southe military prisons, held at the office of Mr. J. W. Mer-rill, of No. 89 Liberty street, on the 20th inst., a committee consisting of Comrades G. H. Lawrence, James Walstond and William Baldwin, appointed to draw up a constitution and bylaws, met yesterday afternoon at the same place and completed their labors. This is the first active step toward the establishment of an organization that has long been desired by those Union soldiers who suffered in military prisons during the war. In nearly every State and Territory these veterans have banded together for the purpose of perpetuating between themselves that bond of sympathy which Southern prison walls first created. It is claimed that there are in this State over ten thousand survivors of the hardships endured in the Southern military prisons, but there has heretofore been no movement looking to their unity in one organization. A call for a meeting was issued about three weeks ago, signed by Messrs, J. W. Merrill, George H. Lawrence, C. J. McCarthy, Edward Cloor, William Baldwin and James O'Brien. The meeting was held, and the committee mentioned above at their meeting yesterday adopted an excellent constitution and bylaves for the proposed association. According to the former document "every officer, enisted man, marine or scaman, who at any time has been incarcerated in any of the Confederate military prisons during the war for the Union, provided that he shall not, during his imprisonment, have taken the oath of allegiance to the Southern Confederacy and has been honorably discharged or remains in the service of the United States," is eligible for membership. The object is to cherish the memory of departed comrades, to strongthen the ties of fraternal sympathy and companionship in arms, to correct fairs statements regarding Andersonville and other prisons, and to publish the truth concerning them, in order that historical justice may be done. Annual reunions and the inviting of distinguished guests are provided for. A wise provision prohibits all discussion of political topics. After adopting these and other requisitions the committee adjourned to moet on January 16, when a public meeting of the survivors of Southern prisons will be called to take further extent toward organization. organization that has long been desired by those Union soldiers who suffered in military prisons during the